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ACTION SCT-02

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INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-05	EUR-00	SS-00	CIAE-00
	EB-00	DODE-00	NEA-05	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	COME-00	SSO-00
	L-02	AMAD-01	TRSE-00	PM-05	EAP-00	PA-02	FAAE-00
	CCO-00	INRE-00	CA-02	USSS-00	USIE-00	JUSE-00	FBIE-00
	OC-02	DOEE-00	M-01	NRC-02	FAIM-01	DS-01	DSE-00
	ZOVD-00	P-02	T-01	/034 W			

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O 070611Z DEC 87
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5732
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY RANGOON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PTER, PREL, KS, KN, JA
SUBJECT: DEC 5-6 DEVELOPMENTS IN THE KAL CASE AS REPORTED
BY ROK MEDIA

1. OVER THE WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 5-6, ROK MEDIA REPORTED
THE FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE KAL 858 CASE:

--JAPANESE AND ROK POLICE WERE UNABLE TO IDENTIFY THE
FINGERPRINTS OF THE "HACHIYAS", FUELING SUSPICION THAT THE
PAIR MAY HAVE BEEN SENT DIRECTLY FROM NORTH KOREA;

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--"MAYUMI HACHIYA", STILL REFUSING TO RESPOND TO
INTERROGATION, WAS TRANSFERRED FROM A MILITARY HOSPITAL TO
A PRISON IN BAHRAIN;

--THE ROKS FORMALLY REQUESTED THE EXTRADITION TO SEOUL OF THE WOMAN AND CORPSE OF HER COMPANION IF THE ONGOING INVESTIGATION PROVES THEIR INVOLVEMENT;

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--KAREN REBEL LEADERS WERE SAID TO HAVE DENIED EARLIER REPORTS THAT THE KARENS HAD SPOTTED WRECKAGE OF KAL 858 IN THE THAI-BURMA BORDER AREA;

--NORTH KOREA'S CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY RELEASED A STATEMENT DENYING DPRK INVOLVEMENT IN THE CASE AND DENOUNCING ROK ALLEGATIONS TO THE CONTRARY AS AN ELECTION "PLOT".

2. ROK POLICE INVESTIGATORS REPORTEDLY WERE DIVIDED AS TO WHETHER THE HACHIYAS ARE NORTH KOREANS OR ETHNIC KOREAN RESIDENTS OF JAPAN. PROPONENTS OF THE FORMER VIEW CITED THE NEGATIVE RESULTS OF JAPANESE AND ROK FINGERPRINT CHECKS; THE DUO'S USE OF CYANIDE-LACED CAPSULES (ALSO USED BY NORTH KOREAN AGENTS INVOLVED IN THE 1983 RANGOON BOMBING); AND THE POSSIBLY BOGUS JAPANESE EXIT STAMPS IN THEIR PASSPORTS. ACCORDING TO THIS SCENARIO, THE PAIR MADE THEIR WAY TO VIENNA FROM PYONGYANG, HAVING BEEN PROVIDED WITH DOCTORED JAPANESE PASSPORTS TO MAKE IT APPEAR THAT THEY ORIGINATED IN JAPAN. THE SECOND VIEW -- THAT THEY ARE ETHNIC KOREAN RESIDENTS OF JAPAN -- ASSUMES THAT THEIR NARITA DEPARTURES STAMPS ARE GENUINE AND THAT NORTH KOREA IS LIKELY TO USE SURROGATES TO CONCEAL ITS ROLE. EMPHASIS IS ALSO PUT ON THE TELEPHONE CALL FROM TOKYO THEY REPORTEDLY RECEIVED IN BAHRAIN AS POINTING TO A JAPAN-BASED OPERATION.

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3. BOTH THEORIES AGREE IN POSTULATING NORTH KOREAN DIRECTION AND SUPPORT FROM THEIR EMBASSIES IN VIENNA AND BELGRADE. A JAPANESE (YOMIURI) REPORT THAT THE HACHIYAS WERE SEEN IN THE LATTER CITY IN THE COMPANY OF SEVERAL UNIDENTIFIED ASIAN MEN, AND THAT MAYUMI HACHIYA MAY HAVE RECEIVED A PACKAGE FROM THEM, REINFORCED EARLIER SPECULATION THAT THE EXPLOSIVES PRESUMABLY USED FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF KAL 858 MIGHT HAVE BEEN OBTAINED THERE. IN THIS CONNECTION IT WAS REPORTED THAT MAYUMI HACHIYA'S PASSPORT DOES NOT CARRY A YUGOSLAV EXIT STAMP, RAISING THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE DPRK EMBASSY IN BELGRADE SOMEHOW FACILITATED HER DEPARTURE WITHOUT GOING THROUGH NORMAL EXIT PROCEDURES.

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WE WILL BE FOLLOWING UP TOMORROW, DEC. 8,
WITH OUR MOFA CONTACTS TO REVIEW THE STATUS OF THE
INVESTIGATION AND ROKG PLANS. LILLEY##

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